

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0364

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PFOR PINT SHUM FR PO
SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH FRANCE

REF: (A) LISBON 0298 (DTG 121224Z JAN 77)(NOTAL),
(B) LISBON 0297 (DTG 121212Z JAN 77) (NOTAL),
(C) 76 LISBON 6987 (DTG 131240Z OCT 76) (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THIS WEEK'S VISIT BY FRENCH STATE SECRETARY FOR
IMMIGRANT WORKERS DIJOU MARKS ANOTHER STEP IN CONTINUING
EFFORTS TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS. PRESIDENT EANES HAS
SENT A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING TO
SPEED THE THAW IN RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH FRANCE: FRENCH STATE SECRETARY
FOR IMMIGRANT WORKERS PAUL DIJOU VISITED LISBON DURING THE
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PAST WEEK. WHILE HERE HE MET WITH PRESIDENT EANES AND PRIME
MINISTER SOARES. EANES PASSED ALONG A PERSONAL MESSAGE FOR
PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING. EANES'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR TOLD THE
POLITICAL COUNSELOR THAT THE MESSAGE WAS DESIGNED TO SPEED THE THAW
IN BILATERAL RELATIONS. SOARES TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT
PORTUGUESE ENTRY INTO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WAS ALSO RAISED
WITH DIJOU. THE RESULTS LED SOARES TO COMMENT THAT FRENCH

OBJECTIONS TO PORTUGUESE ENTRY WERE SOFTENING (REF A).
DIJOURD AND PORTUGUESE COUNTERPART JOAO LIMA CAPPED THE
VISIT BY SIGNING AN AGREEMENT GUARANTEEING PORTUGUESE WORKERS
RESIDENT IN FRANCE THE SAME WAGES AND SOCIAL BENEFITS AS
FRENCH WORKERS IN SIMILAR OCCUPATIONS.

2. PLUGGING PIDE LOOPHOLES: A NEW LAW WAS PROMULGATED JAN 13
STIFFENING PENALTIES AND DEFINING MORE NARROWLY THE CIRCUM-
STANCES UNDER WHICH CLEMENCY CAN BE GRANTED TO FORMER
SECRET POLICE (PIDE) AGENTS. RECENT RELEASES AND LIGHT
SENTENCES IMPOSED UNDER THE OLD LAW HAD LED TO MOUNTING
CRITICISM WITHIN LEFT AN CENTER POLITICAL CIRCLES (REF B).
THE TOUGHER LAW WAS INTRODUCED BY THE SOCIALIST PARLIAMENTARY
GROUP; ITS ENACTMENT WILL STRENGTHEN PS ANTI-FASCIST
CREDENTIALS. ACCORDING TO SOARES AIDE CUNHA REGO, THE LAW IS ALSO
INTENDED TO STRENGTHEN THE GOVERNMENT'S HAND AS IT STEPS UP
PRSSURE AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS.

3. RUMBLINGS ON THE RIGHT: THE TACK TO THE LEFT BY THE CENTER
DEMOCRATS IN RECENT WEEKS HAS TRIGGERED FAMILIAR TALK OF THE
FORMATION OF A PARTY TO THE RIGHT OF THE CDS. POTENTIAL
SUPPORTERS OF SUCH A PARTY MET IN OPORTO OVER THE PAST WEEKEND
TO DISCUSS PROSPECTS. POLITICAL INSIDERS ATTRIBUTE THE NEW
IMPETUS ON THE RIGHT TO THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:

- REJECTION BY THE CDS LEADERSHIP OF RECENT OVERTURES BY
THE FAR RIGHT.
- CDS FAILURE TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT GAINS IN THE DEC 12 LOCAL
ELECTIONS.
- TACIT CDS SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT BUDGET AND ECONOMIC
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PLAN FOR 1977.

PRIME MOVER BEHIND THE MOVEMENT, LIKELY TO BE DUBBED THE
PORTUGUESE ALLIANCE PARTY (PAP), IS CDS DISSIDENT CONSTITUENT
ASSEMBLY DELEGATE MANUEL PIRES DE MORAIS. LURKING BEHIND
THE SCENES S GEN KAULZA DE ARRIAGA.

4. COMMENT: THE DIJOURD VISIT MARKS ANOTHER STEP IN CONTINUING
EFFORTS TO IMPROVE PORTUGUESE-FRENCH RELATIONS. IT BUILDS
UPON THE SUCCESSFUL MID-OCTOBER VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER
MEDEIROS FERREIRA TO PARIS AT THE INVITATION OF THE FRENCH
GOVERNMENT (REF C).
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Message Attributes

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